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For three months.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

H. F. OSBORN &
CO.,

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THE COURTEOUS SWEDES.

Points Which Attract the Attention of

Travelers in Our Kingdom.

The beautiful politeness and courtesy

of the Swedes is a thing that is very

striking to visitors, writes a contributor

to "The Nation." They have a large

amount of home-bred, courteous and

polite, according to the writer, and

the lifting of the hat to mere

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MOTHERS IN FICTION.

Characteristics of Their Abuses and

Not Always Admired.

A vigorous search has recently been

made in novels for the admirable mother

in fiction, and it gave the searchers a

shock that she failed to materialize.

The father, the brother, sister, cousins,

aunts and even grandmothers, are often

drawn with a loving pencil, but the

mother is always a subordinate charac-

ter if introduced at all.

Perhaps because her own mother was

so unsatisfactory Dickens never put one

in a novel of his that deserves to be

mentioned in connection with his be-

lign father. Here is the list:

"Our Mutual Friend"—Mrs. Weller

(a tragedy).

"Domestic and Son"—Mrs. Shawton (a

libel on the sex).

David Copperfield's mother is an

amiable fool; Mrs. Steerforth is impos-

sible and horrible; Mrs. Hoop a mate for her

husband; Mrs. Micawber a caricature.

In "Black House"—Lady Dedlock a

mother who abandoned her child; Mrs.

Jellyby one who neglected her children

for a hobby.

In "The Tale of Two Cities" the

mother dies before the story begins.

Then there is Mrs. Coleman (a crim-

inal), Mrs. Merdle and Mrs. Gowan

(worldly), and Mrs. Meagles (nice but

weak-minded in "Little Dorrit"). Dic-

kens' mothers are all objectionable.

Thackeray's only success on this score

is Mrs. Edmonds' maternal

qualities are not strong.

Who does not love the gentle Vicar of

Wakefield and his homely, tender

philosophy? His gentleness is illus-

trated by his constant excuses for his

nagging wife.

George Eliot ignores mothers. Mrs.

Poyser is the most successful, but she

comes of the lower order. Mrs. Harleth

and her whole family are ruled by

Gwendoline. Mrs. Tulliver and Mrs.

Deane in "The Mill on the Floss" are

almost imbecile. The wonder is that

she had such remarkable children.

Jane Eyre has two thoroughly cruel

and offensive, Lady Inger and Mrs.

Rod.

Pistolatus' mother in Bulwer

Lytton's novel, "The Cartons," is a

tender and loving woman—an exception to

the rule. Charles Reade has one re-

spectable mother, Mrs. Little "Put

Yourself in His Place," but Wilkie Col-

lins falls in with the custom very nat-

urally.

Outside's mothers are nearly all detest-

able.

Robert Elmore is the one excep-

tion. The heroine of that novel

would have done well to have been

endowed with his mother's intellect,

cheerfulness and vigor. But interesting

as she is, her maternal influence did

not go far. Amelie Rives has a cruel

and heartless mother in "The Witness

of the Sea," who sacrifices her son's

happiness to satisfy her selfish passion.

In Mrs. Catherine's stories the mother

is conspicuously absent. And so on and

so on indefinitely.

Count ZICHY'S JOKE.

How a Hungarian Nobleman Outwitted a

Yankee Customs Officer.

The famous Hungarian, Count Zichy,

who lived on a princely income in

Vienna, was, in his younger days, well

known all over Europe on account of the

BEDE, COURT DWARF.

Queer Career of the Tom Thumb

of the Last Century.

The Diminutive Creature Owned by King

Stanislaus of Poland—Numerous Perils

to Which the Little Fellow Was

Exposed—His Last Days.

The story of Bebe is a quaint bit of

last century's history, which has just

been rescued from oblivion by a Con-

tinental Dryadist. Bebe is supposed to

have been the littlest man who ever

lived, says the New York Sun. He was

brought by a peasant woman in Lorraine

just 150 years ago, and was called Bebe

because the first few years of his life he

could articulate only "b-b." The day of

his birth Bebe was smaller than his

mother's hand. Ten days afterward he

was taken to the village church to be

baptized in his mother's wooden shoe,

because he was too tiny to be carried

safely in her arms. During the next six

months the same wooden shoe served as

Bebe's crib.

Bebe's early childhood was unevent-

ful. He did not grow and he did not

talk. He was famous throughout

Lorraine, however, as the cunningest

and tiniest bit of humanity ever seen.

He was perfectly proportioned, had

wonderfully large and beautiful brown

eyes, and was remarkably active upon

his diminutive legs. When Bebe was

about seven years old King Stanislaus

Lowczynski of Poland, who was then

living in Lorraine, heard what a

wonderful little fellow he was, and

ordered the child's father to bring him

to court. Bebe, Sr., carried his son to

the royal palace in a small basket.

At the time of his introduction to court

life Bebe was just twenty inches tall

and weighed eight pounds. He never

grew larger. At first the King tried to

teach him jokes and fairy stories and

bits of questionable poetry. Bebe's in-

telegence, however, was not equal to

the demands thus made upon it. His

